

FOR INFORMATION

DA-2002-11

July 19, 2002

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* (PR) Expansion of Regulated Areas

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On February 14, 2002, APHIS published in the Federal Register an interim rule (7 CFR 301.92) for PR, also known as sudden oak death. This regulation controls the artificial spread of this disease causing organism from ten counties in California and part of one county in Oregon where the disease had been established at the time of publication of the rule.

University researchers regularly analyze suspected samples taken outside the currently regulated area. They detected the presence of the organism using a Polymerase Chain Reaction test and confirmed its presence by growing it in culture. We were notified by the California Oak Mortality Task Force that as a result of this research PR is now confirmed in two new counties in California: Contra Costa and Humboldt.

Effective immediately, we are imposing a temporary designation of quarantine in Contra Costa and Humboldt Counties. This action is authorized by 7 CFR 301.92-3 (b) which authorizes temporary designation while we proceed toward publishing a rule to add the areas to the list of quarantined areas listed in 7 CFR 301.92-3 (c). The interim rule 7 CFR 301.92-3 (b) further requires written notification be given to the owner or person in possession of the nonquarantined area to be put under regulation. This is the responsibility of the Federal and/or State regulatory personnel responsible for the PR program in each of the newly affected counties.

These detections were made independently of our pilot national survey for PR. That survey is being conducted this year in those States interested in participating and is in cooperation with the Forest Service.

If you would like more details on the Federal regulatory program, you may contact Jonathan Jones at (301) 734-8247. For more information on the pilot national survey, please contact the PPQ State Plant Health Director for your area.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert  
for

Richard L. Dunkle

Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine